

Note:

The following curriculum is a consolidated version. It is legally non-binding and for informational purposes only.

The legally binding versions are found in the University of Innsbruck Bulletins (in German).

Original version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 22 April 2009, Issue 68, No. 260

Modification published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 20 April 2016, Issue 19, No. 330

Revocation of the amendment published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 30 September 2016, Issue 57, No. 603

Modification published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 27 June 2017, Issue 46, No. 654

Modification published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 16 April 2019, Issue 37, No. 388

Complete Version as of 1 October 2019

Curriculum for the

Doctoral Programme Catholic Theology

at the Faculty of Catholic Theology of the University of Innsbruck

§1 Qualification profile and programme objectives

- (1) The Doctoral Programme in Catholic Theology is allocated to the group of theological study programmes.
- (2) The internal order of the study programme is governed by the ecclesiastical legal foundations according to the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium*, the *Ordinationes* thereto, the decree on the Apostolic Constitution *Sapientia Christiana* for the Catholic Theological Faculties in Austria as well as the binding statements made in the circulars (*Lettere Circolari*) of the Congregation for Catholic Education.
- (3) The Doctoral Programme in Catholic Theology enables graduates to pursue independent, creative scientific work, which is documented by the dissertation as an independent piece of research achievement. It qualifies graduates to teach at universities and other academic institutions and forms highly qualified scientists for academic careers or important positions in church and society. It promotes advanced competence in the history and theory of science with respect to the chosen theological subjects and strengthens the students' political sensitivity for the role and significance of theology in ecclesial, academic and social contexts.

Through its integration into the main research areas of the faculty or other research projects, it initiates a professional examination of current questions in theological science, carried out in interdisciplinary cooperation with different fields of theology and in dialogue with other sciences.

- (4) Graduates of the Doctoral Programme in Catholic Theology acquire the following key qualifications:
 - competence in theological research and independent development of theological concepts and hypotheses;
 - specialised knowledge in the field of the dissertation and one additional subject;
 - integration of this knowledge into the overall context of theology and knowledge of its relevance for this overall context;
 - competence in the theory and didactics of science in order to theoretically reflect on one's knowledge and to successfully impart it in different contexts;
 - skills of self-organised learning, of professional discussion on expert level, and of interdisciplinary dialogue;

- competence to present one's research results and knowledge in academic and non-academic contexts;
- competence to reflect on the relevance of the academic theological discourse for the practice of church and society – and vice versa;
- academic theological capability of discernment through the integration of the knowledge gained into one's personality

§2 Duration and scope

The duration of the Doctoral Programme Catholic Theology is three years (six semesters). This corresponds to 180 ECTS-Credits.

§3 Admission

- (1) For being admitted to the doctoral programme, proof of a completed relevant diploma programme or completion of other study programmes at approved post-secondary educational institutions home or abroad, such as an ecclesial Licentiate degree in Catholic Theology, must be provided. If equivalency is given in principle but a few elements are missing for full equivalency, the rector's office is entitled to condition the determination of equivalency on passing certain examinations to be taken in the course of the doctoral programme.
- (2) A relevant study programme is in any case the Diploma Programme Catholic Theology completed at the University of Innsbruck.

§4 Types of courses and maximum number of students per course

- (1) **Lectures** (VO) are courses held in lecture format and courses without continuous performance assessment. They introduce the research areas, methods and schools of thought for a given subject.
- (2) **Seminars** (SE) are courses with continuous performance assessment and provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 20.

§5 Allocation of places in courses with a limited number of participants

Students whose study time will be prolonged if they are not admitted are to be given priority.

§6 Modules

The following compulsory modules corresponding to altogether 60 ECTS-Credits must be passed:

1.	Compulsory Module: Specialisation in the Subject of the Doctoral Thesis	h	ECTS-Credits
	Courses in the subject area of the doctoral thesis or related to the subject area of the doctoral thesis, the selection of which is to be approved by the main supervisor, in accordance with the dissertation agreement, corresponding to 20 ECTS-Credits, two courses of which must be seminars corresponding to 4 or more ECTS-Credits.	-	20
	Learning Outcomes: Highly specialised knowledge in the field of the doctoral thesis and at the intersection with other contexts and fields that go beyond the scope of individual projects.		
	Prerequisites: none		

2.	Compulsory Module: Philosophy of Science	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Philosophy of Science I General theory of science and its history in special consideration of the requirements in interdisciplinary dialogue; critical reflection of one's own work; gender aspects in science;	2	3
b.	VO Philosophy of Science II Questions of normativity in science and the relationship of church and theology; theological sources (loci); theology of inspiration; theological models and their critical reflection; gender aspects in theological studies;	2	3
	Total	4	6
	Learning Outcomes: Highly specialised knowledge in modern theory of science and its history; ability to critically analyse one's own scientific work and place it in an academic context, and especially to recognise uncritical applications of models and methods from other areas of science. Excellent knowledge of central conflicts in the history of theology and of systematically central questions in the theory of science of theology; ability to critically evaluate different theological models and to reflect on their own basic theological options.		
	Prerequisites: none		

3.	Compulsory Module: Didactics of Sciences and Participation in the Scientific Discourse	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE Didactics of Sciences Didactics of science and university teaching with regard to theological and philosophical teaching and knowledge transfer;	2	4
b.	Participation in Scientific Discourse Participation with own presentation and subsequent discussion at a faculty doctoral student colloquium organised by the students themselves, which serves the interdisciplinary critical discussion of their own work with students and lecturers of the faculty. Alternatively, students can participate in external scientific events with their own presentation and subsequent discussion. In both cases a well-reflected final self-report is to be written.	-	2
	Total	2	6
	Learning Outcomes: Acquisition of didactic knowledge and competences in the fields of teaching and learning at universities and for presentation of science to an (expert) audience that prepare for teaching at theological universities, seminars, theological study houses, the managing of church institutions as well as knowledge transfer to the public. Ability to be sustainably engaged in the development of new ideas in learning and presentation contexts. Expanding the competence for analysing and critically assessing the presentation of scientific performance of oneself and others. Advanced study of the knowledge in the subject of the doctoral thesis and awareness of interdisciplinary contexts of individual theological disciplines by including them in structured discussion processes with representatives of the subject of the doctoral thesis as well as other theological subjects.		
	Prerequisites: none		

4.	Compulsory Module: Advanced Study of Further Subjects	h	ECTS-Credits
	Courses from at least one further subject acc. to §7 par. 2 from the course offer of the Doctoral Programme in Catholic Theology and from the PhD-Programme at the Faculty of Catholic Theology. The courses serve the advanced study of further subjects and make it possible to broaden the theological competence beyond the subject of the dissertation.	-	12
	Total	4	12
	Learning Outcomes: Highly specialised knowledge of the state of research in one additional subject of the doctoral programme; expanding of the knowledge at the intersection to other subjects on a high level.		
	Prerequisites: none		

5.	Compulsory Module: Plurality and Unity in Theological Subjects	h	ECTS-Credits
	Self-study of specialist literature in areas going beyond the dissertation topic in the narrower sense. Specific literature from the dissertation subject and another subject according to the list in §7 par. 2 must be selected. As a basis for this, the Dean of Studies will publish a list of standard literature after consulting the subject's representatives.	-	14
	Total	-	14
	Learning Outcomes: Advanced study of theological literature aiming at sustainably linking the highly specialised knowledge acquired during the writing of the doctoral thesis, with a broader context of traditional and contemporary research.		
	Prerequisites: none		

6.	Compulsory Module: Doctoral Thesis Defense (Rigorousum)	h	ECTS-Credits
	Final oral doctoral thesis defense in the overall context of theology before an examination board.	-	2
	Total	-	2
	Learning Outcomes: Qualification to present, reflect on, and analyse the results of the dissertation in the overall context of the doctoral programme; to summarise and explain the results of the research project, to present the gain of knowledge for the discipline; to demonstrate evaluation and methodical competences, as well as presentation skills on an outstanding scientific level.		
	Prerequisites: positive evaluation of compulsory modules 1 – 5 as well as the Doctoral Thesis		

§7 Doctoral Thesis

- (1) During the Doctoral Programme Catholic Theology a Doctoral Thesis corresponding to 120 ECTS-Credits is to be written. The dissertation is an academic thesis which serves to prove the student's ability to deal with scientific questions in an independent way.

- (2) The dissertation agreement defines the subject area from which the topic for the doctoral thesis is to be chosen, the topic of the doctoral thesis, and the selected subject area or subject areas acc. to §6 no. 4. The following subject areas may be selected: Philosophy, Old Testament studies, New Testament studies, Church History and Patrology, Dogmatic Theology, Ecumenical Theology, Fundamental Theology, Religious Studies, Moral Theology, Christian Social Ethics, Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology, Pastoral Theology, Canon Law, Catechetics and Religious Pedagogy.
- (3) The student has to propose a team of supervisors, consisting of at least two people (dissertation committee), and to nominate one of them, a person with *venia docendi*, as the main supervisor. It is permissible to also propose supervisors (with the exception of the main supervisor) from subject-related fields.
- (4) Prior to beginning the work, the student has to communicate the topic of the doctoral thesis and names of the supervisors in writing to the Director of Studies. Topic and supervisors are considered as accepted, unless the Director of Studies vetoes them by means of a decree within one month after the receipt of the proposal.

§8 Examination regulations

- (1) The performance of compulsory modules 1, 2, 3 lit. a and 4 is evaluated by course examinations.
 1. Evaluation of course examinations for lectures is based on a single examination at the end of the course. The course instructor has to define and announce the method of examination (written or oral) before the start of the course.
 2. Evaluation of courses with continuous performance assessment is based on regular written and/or oral contributions by the students. The course instructor has to announce the examination methods and the assessment criteria before the start of the course.
- (2) Compulsory module 3 lit. b is evaluated by the main supervisor based on the reflective report written by the student. Positive evaluation reads “successfully completed”, negative evaluation “unsuccessfully completed”.
- (3) Compulsory module 5 is evaluated by a one-hour examination before an examination board consisting of the main supervisor and two further examiners.
- (4) Compulsory module 6 “Doctoral Thesis Defense (Rigorosum)” is evaluated by an oral examination before an examination board consisting of three examiners.

§9 Academic degree

- (1) Graduates of the Doctoral Programme Catholic Theology are awarded the academic degree “Doctor of Theology”, abbreviated as “Dr. theol.”.
- (2) The acquired academic degree corresponds to the canonical doctoral degree in Catholic Theology.

§10 Coming into force

- (1) This curriculum comes into force as of 1 October 2009. The changes of the curriculum acc. to the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 27 June 2017, Issue 46, No. 653 come into force as of 1 October 2017 and are to be applied to all students.
- (2) The changes of the curriculum acc. to the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 16 April 2019, Issue 37, No. 388 come into force as of 1 October 2019 and are to be applied to all students.